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Archeological Investigations at Monterey

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Phase m investigations were recently completed at the 19th and 20th-century hamlet of Monterey, located along Paris Pike in Bourbon County, Kentucky. Within the community, a toll house operated along the macadamized turnpike, built in 1835. A local wool carding operation used this new commercial highway to transport goods, while blacksmith shops serviced traffic along this major thoroughfare from Lexington to Paris.

The site of Monterey is especially significant with regard to African-American history in Kentucky. Within the small community a free African-American family, of ex-slaves, resided on a lot bought in 1835 by a freed African-American woman. Contemporaneously, on another lot in the community enslaved African Americans were also resident. African Americans continued to reside at Monterey into the 20th century. One resident, William Moore, appears to have been a prominent community blacksmith who donated a parcel of his land for the formation of an A.M.E. church.

The site was first located through archival research associated with initial Phase I archeological surveys to widen Paris Pike conducted by archeologists from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. Cultural Resource Analysts was selected to conduct Phase II investigations of the hamlet, and designed the testing program to facilitate the identification of the significant cultural resources within the community. Surveyors located all five historic property lot boundaries at Monterey using deed records and a computerized historic mapping program. A more extensive systematic shovel testing program collected data used to create artifact density maps. Concentrations of architectural material dating to the early 19th century suggested the locations of early residences. State of the art remote sensing equipment was also utilized. Dr. Berle Clay conducted the field study and generated maps of the site area depicting anomalies. Phase III investigations ensued, and subsequent backhoe trenching and manual excavation located eleven structures and outbuildings, including the residences of free and enslaved African-Americans.

To begin the investigation of this early hamlet, Dr. Jeff Mauck reviewed pertinent archival records of the area. Mauck's research documented a very rich history. The hamlet contained antebellum free and enslaved African-American and European-American residents, along with two blacksmith shops, a wool carding shop, and a residence that functioned as a toll house. According to census records, there was an influx of freed African Americans into the hamlet in the later 19th century.

The archival overview established the presence of African Americans at Monterey. In Lot 1, Dr. Mauck established the presence of a freed African-American couple located in a residence at the far eastern end of the project area. Her master had freed Frankie Robison at the age of 35. Her husband Henry's freedom had been purchased, perhaps with Frankie's help, for four hundred dollars. In 1856, Henry inherited the property from Franky. Interestingly, he subsequently transferred the title to the land as well as three horses, three cows and one wagon to Sidney Clay,

a prominent local land holder, in a deed of trust for the benefit of Robison's new wife Charlotte. He arranged for Clay to manage the tract in such a way that Charlotte would have a place to live for the remainder of her years. The 1860 census indicates that Henry Robison was a 70 year old free black laborer. His wife Charlotte was 57. Francis Clay, Charlotte's daughter was 20. In 1868, an apparently widowed Charlotte Robison sold the property to Willis Brown, a local African-American resident, who resided on the lot until after the turn of the century.

W.P. Dorsey, an European American, acquired Lot 3 near the center of the site area in 1849. The 1860 census listed Willis Dorsey, age 44, as a "merchant." He owned \$600 of real estate and possessed a personal estate of \$1000. Living in the house was his wife Sarah, age 44, and five children. Of special significance was the 1860 slave census stating that he owned three slaves, one female and two males, and that two lived outside Dorsey's house.

On Lot 4, adjacent to Dorsey's lot, Harriet Moore, an African American, acquired the property in 1865. Her husband was William Moore, a blacksmith. He had apparently rented the old Anderson place and operated the blacksmith shop for several years previous to the purchase. The 1860 census reported Moore, a 45 year old "mulatto" blacksmith, who stated his personal estate to be worth \$100, living in the survey area. His wife Harriet, age 26, and son Moses, also a blacksmith, also lived in the survey area. The 1860 manufacturing census sheds additional light on this family. It lists a "Billy" Moore --the name which Moore went by on other legal documents--as being a blacksmith with \$1000 invested in his operation. He used \$500 of iron annually, employed two male workers, paid \$60 a month in wages, and produced an annual product valued at \$2000.

Excavations identified structures and midden areas associated with the African-American occupants of Monterey. Backhoe trenching and unit excavation across the eastern margin of the site area encountered the chimney pad, foundation remnants, and external root cellar of the residence of free African Americans, the Robisons. Artifacts associated with the chimney pad date to the early 19th century, and included quantities of domestic debris and faunal remains.

In Lot 3, near the center of the site area the remains of Dorsey's house were identified, and the foundations of a two-pen cabin were uncovered at the back edge of the house Lot. This structure likely housed the two slaves noted in the documents. Domestic and faunal debris was abundant in and around the cabin.

In Lot 4, the double end-chimney foundations of Mrs. Anderson's early 19th-century house were uncovered. At the back end of this Lot, a midden dating to the occupation of William Moore was identified. Moore's blacksmith shop was identified as well, and the associated worked metal artifacts suggest his smithing was focused on horsehoeing and wagon repairs associated no doubt with traffic along the old turnpike.

The Phase III investigations at Monterey were concluded in mid- December. The important components of the small town were located, and the research to understand the early lifeways and relationships of these early Kentuckians is underway. The potential significance of this site is focused on comparing the material culture differences between the free and enslaved African

Americans, and their European-American neighbors at Monterey. A highly successful public tour program was also initiated at Monterey.